(c) Removal of timber by raiyats free of license.

(c) Agriculturists may be permitted to cut and remove wood for building purposes without a license.

Reply of Government.—The permission asked for cannot be granted. Licenses must be obtained in accordance with the rules in force for wood required for building purposes.

(d) Raiyats may be allowed to cut and remove timber in State Forests on payment of seigniorage at reduced rates.

(d) Timber and bamboos of the kind required by raiyats are not always available in District Forests nor are they procurable in Government depôts. The system of allowing raiyats to cut and remove, at their own cost and on payment of seigniorage at reduced rates, timber and bamboos in defined blocks of forests, obtains in District Forests in British Territory, and may advantageously be adopted in Mysore in regard to State Forests.

Reply of Government.—This cannot be permitted in State Forests nor is a reduction of the present rates feasible.

Subject No. 2.
Inclusion of gomal in forests.

Summary of discussion.—The formation of new State Forests by the curtailment of free pasture lands should be discouraged. The Uyyamballi, Jenkalbetta and Sivalinganbetta Forests are instances of the inconvenience thus caused.

Reply of Government.—Deputy Commissioners and District Forest Officers make a careful enquiry in regard to the requirements of the villagers concerned before proposing the curtailment of pasture lands in any case. If individual cases of complaint are brought to their notice, they will again institute the necessary enquiry and afford redress if feasible.

Subject No. 3.
(a) Grazing in State Forests.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) A fee of 4 annas per head is charged for cattle grazing in State Forests, and yet the privilege of grazing is refused in the summer when cattle are really in want of fodder. Permission to graze throughout the year should be given, a higher fee being levied if necessary.

Reply of Government.—Free admission of men and cattle into State Forests during summer is likely to increase the risk of danger by fire and cannot be allowed. Licenses may be obtained to cut and remove grass where available during summer. Where the number of cattle in the neighbourhood of any State Forests is small and the pasture therein is not utilized for grazing, persons desirous of stacking a supply of hay or straw may obtain licenses to cut and remove grass from such forests in the proper season, upon such terms as the Conservator of Forests may fix.

(b) Cattle to graze in State Forests either free or at reduced fees.

(b) Free grazing may be permitted in State Forests, and if this cannot be done, the present rate of fee may be reduced. Taluk authorities could manage the matter more satisfactorily than Foresters.

Reply of Government.—The grazing fee is not high and no change can be made in the management of these forests.

(c) Levy of a fee for young calves grazing in State Forests is unjust.

(*c*) The present practice of levying a fee for young calves grazing in State Forests may be discontinued.

Reply of Government.—Young calves are not usually sent out. No distinction can be made between young and old cattle.

Subject No. 4. Matti wood may be given free of seigniorage to the raiyats of Malnad for agricultural purposes.

Summary of discussion.—In Malnad there is no wood so useful as matti for agricultural purposes. The leaves are used for manure, the bark for tanning leather and the wood for agricultural implements. The subject was discussed in 1894 (See Subject No. 156). Final orders allowing the wood free to raiyats for agricultural purposes are solicited. The restriction leads to thefts of this wood on an extensive scale.

Reply of Government.—The subject has more than once been fully discussed and carefully considered. No modification of the orders passed can now be made.

Subject No. 5. Permission to cut Matti trees on occupied lands.

Summary of discussion.—The occupants of lands were formerly at liberty to cut the matti trees standing on their holdings but this class of trees has since been added to the list of reserved trees and the khatedars are prohibited from felling the same. This prohibition causes great hardship to the raiyats. Permission is therefore requested to cut and utilize the trees as per mamul.

Reply of Government.—The Deputy Commissioner will enquire into this complaint.

Subject No. 6. Amildar to be made Head of the Taluk in Forest matters.

Summary of discussion.—The Amildar should be the Head of the Taluk in Forest matters in the same way as in Revenue and Police matters. People have now to complain of oppression by the minor forest officials.

Reply of Government.—This request cannot be complied with, so far as State Forests are concerned. Under Section 16 of the Forest Rules, the Amildar is in immediate charge of all District Forests and is himself the Magistrate who would, in the ordinary course, enquire into such complaints.

Subject No. 7. Assignment of separate tracts for villages.

Summary of discussion.—District Forests are being largely operated upon for fuel, and if this state of things is allowed to continue, these forests will soon be denuded of trees. It is therefore prayed that the special assignment of a specific tract for each village may be made at an early date.

Reply of Government.—This is being done gradually.

Subject No. 8. Free license for removing trees on Government and Inam lands.

Summary of discussion.—Occupants of Government and Inam lands including jodidars and kayamguttadars may be permitted to cut and remove trees planted by them on such lands without having in the first instance to apply for and obtain a license in that behalf.